

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the prior application:

Claims 1-18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (currently amended): A cordless blind comprising:

a headrail;

a bottom rail suspended from the headrail by a first cord and a second cord;

a window covering disposed between the headrail and the bottom rail;

a drive actuator including:

a spool,

a spring motor coupled to the spool,

a biasing element coupled to the spring motor and configured to provide a force biased against movement of the bottom rail,

a bias adjustment mechanism coupled to the biasing element, the bias adjustment mechanism being configured to provide a selective variable application of a biasing force by the biasing element, wherein the bias adjustment mechanism includes a release button, and wherein the biasing element and the bias adjustment mechanism do not directly engage the first and second lift cords.

Claims 20-72 (canceled)

Claim 73 (previously presented): A cordless blind in accordance with claim 19, wherein the biasing element is a spring that applies a force to one of the spool and the spring motor to maintain a static position of the drive actuator regardless of the position of the bottom rail, and wherein the release button is operatively coupled to the spring such that

movement of the release button from a normal position to a release position relieves the force of the spring on the spool or the spring motor.

Claim 74 (previously presented): A cordless blind in accordance with claim 73, wherein the drive actuator and the bias adjustment mechanism are disposed in one of the headrail and the bottom rail, and wherein the spring is disposed between the spool or the spring motor to which the force is applied and an inner wall of the rail in which the drive actuator and the bias adjustment mechanism are disposed.

Claim 75 (previously presented): A cordless blind in accordance with claim 73, wherein the drive actuator and the bias adjustment mechanism are disposed in one of the headrail and the bottom rail, and wherein the release button extends outwardly through an aperture of a wall of the rail in which the drive actuator and the bias adjustment mechanism are disposed.

Claim 76 (previously presented): A cordless blind in accordance with claim 75, wherein the release button moves from the normal position to the release position when the release button is pressed inwardly toward the rail through the aperture.

Claim 77 (previously presented): A cordless blind in accordance with claim 73, wherein the bias adjustment mechanism includes a brake pad disposed between the spring and the spool or the spring motor to which the force is applied and operatively coupled to the release button so that the brake pad moves the spring away from the spool or the spring motor when the release button moves from the normal position to the release position.

Claim 78 (currently amended): A cordless blind comprising:

a headrail;

a bottom rail suspended from the headrail by a first cord and a second cord;

a window covering disposed between the headrail and the bottom rail;

a drive actuator including:

a spool having the cords attached thereto, and

a spring motor coupled to the spool and having a first spring applying a force to rotate the spool in a direction to wind the cords onto the spool;

a second spring engaging the drive actuator to provide sufficient frictional force to maintain a static position of the drive actuator regardless of the position of the bottom rail; and

a release button operatively coupled to the second spring such that movement of the release button from a normal position to a release position relieves the frictional force of the spring on the drive actuator, and wherein the second spring and the release button do not directly engage the first and second cords.

Claim 79 (previously presented): A cordless blind in accordance with claim 78, wherein the drive actuator and the second spring are disposed in one of the headrail and the bottom rail, and wherein the second spring is disposed between the drive actuator and an inner wall of the rail in which the drive actuator and the second spring are disposed.

Claim 80 (previously presented): A cordless blind in accordance with claim 78, wherein the drive actuator and the second spring are disposed in one of the headrail and the bottom rail, and wherein the release button extends outwardly through an aperture of a wall of the rail in which the drive actuator and the second spring are disposed.

Claim 81 (previously presented): A cordless blind in accordance with claim 80, wherein the release button moves from the normal position to the release position when the release button is pressed inwardly toward the rail through the aperture.

Claim 82 (previously presented): A cordless blind in accordance with claim 81,

comprising a brake pad disposed between the second spring and the drive actuator and operatively coupled to the release button so that the brake pad moves the second spring away from the drive actuator when the release button moves from the normal position to the release position.

Claim 83 (currently amended): A cordless blind comprising:

a headrail;

a bottom rail suspended from the headrail by a first cord;

a window covering disposed between the headrail and the bottom rail;

a drive actuator including:

a spool having an end of the first cord attached thereto with a portion of the first cord being wound around the spool,

a spring motor coupled to the spool and including a first spring configured to provide a force biased against rotation of the spool in a direction to unwind the first cord and lower the bottom rail;

a second spring engaging the drive actuator to provide sufficient frictional force to maintain a static position of the drive actuator regardless of the position of the bottom rail; and

a release button operatively coupled to the second spring such that movement of the release button from a normal position to a release position relieves the frictional force of the second spring on the drive actuator, and wherein the second spring and the release button do not directly engage the first cord.

Claim 84 (previously presented): A cordless blind in accordance with claim 83, wherein the drive actuator and the second spring are disposed in one of the headrail and the bottom rail, and wherein the second spring is disposed between the drive actuator and an inner wall of the rail in which the drive actuator and the second spring are disposed.

Claim 85 (previously presented): A cordless blind in accordance with claim 83, wherein the drive actuator and the second spring are disposed in one of the headrail and the bottom rail, and wherein the release button extends outwardly through an aperture of a wall of the rail in which the drive actuator and the second spring are disposed.

Claim 86 (previously presented): A cordless blind in accordance with claim 85, wherein the release button moves from the normal position to the release position when the release button is pressed inwardly toward the rail through the aperture.

Claim 87 (previously presented): A cordless blind in accordance with claim 86, comprising a brake pad disposed between the second spring and the drive actuator and operatively coupled to the release button so that the brake pad moves the second spring away from the drive actuator when the release button moves from the normal position to the release position.

Claim 88 (previously presented): A cordless blind in accordance with claim 83, wherein the bottom rail is suspended from the headrail by a second cord having an end attached to the spool, and wherein the spool comprises a double take-up spool having a first slot around which the first cord is wound and a second slot around which the second cord is wound so that the first and second cords are both unwound from the spool when the spool rotates in one direction and are both wound onto the spool when the spool rotates in the opposite direction.